



49th MP's support Iraqi Police

Story and photo by Spc. James Hunter
MNC-I PAO

The 49th Military Police Brigade's Police Transition Team visited various Iraqi Police security checkpoints in Baghdad Tuesday.

The transition team visits with provincial, district and state police leaders throughout Baghdad five days a week to mentor and advise them in making sufficient and self-sustaining decisions, said Maj. Harold Zimmerman, PTT chief, Baghdad Province.

"When we go to these checkpoints we ensure that they have all the necessary equipment to complete their tasks," Zimmerman said. "We sit down with the leaders to help them problem solve and come up with new ideas on how to improve."

At one of the check points, Zimmerman met with an Iraqi checkpoint chief, Maj. Shamel Muhammad Ali.

Working 12-hour shifts and searching vehicles and civilians without all the proper equipment makes the job challenging and exhausting, Ali said.

Metal detectors are the most needed and requested piece of equipment, he said. They can detect and prevent explosives from passing through the checkpoints.

Ali also expressed his concerns about not having the proper funding to send his enlisted policemen through the Baghdad Police Academy to receive mandatory training.

He feels the training is a must and without it he does not know what to expect from his untrained enlisted personnel.

Well trained and equipped Iraqi policemen play a big role in counter insurgency measures at check points, especially on the outskirts of Baghdad, said Zimmerman.

The policemen look for explosives and weapons during the initial screening of vehicles prior to them entering Baghdad, he added.

Though his staff is not fully trained, Ali



U.S. Army photo by Spc. James P. Hunter

Maj. Harold Zimmerman, team chief, Police Transition Team, 49th Military Police Brigade, Baghdad province, and his interpreter speak with Maj. Shamel Muhammed Ali, an Iraqi check point chief, about equipment, training and security concerns. The PTT travels to various checkpoints in Baghdad to mentor and advise them in making sufficient and self-sustaining decisions.

remains grateful for American support.

American forces have provided squad automatic weapons, security barriers and vests for the safety and security of Iraqi policemen, Ali said.

On a day-to-day basis the Iraqi Police Force deals with several construction, supply and training issues.

The team assured the Iraqis they will continue to supply them with the equipment they need to grow and develop into professional policemen.

"This is my second tour in Iraq and from what I've seen these men are becoming more professional," said Zimmerman. "They're presenting themselves as a professional organization in the way they wear their uniform. The uniforms are worn properly, clean and are all

alike."

The policemen's confidence has also grown with their ability to maintain weapons, operate vehicles and search individuals, he added.

"Any civilian law enforcement agency has to have a professional appearance that the people or citizens respect," Zimmerman continued, "so they'll be willing to exchange information and trust them."

Though the Iraqi police are conducting themselves very respectfully and professionally, they must continue to train and make logical decisions, Zimmerman said.

The 49th military policemen's PTT will continue to visit Iraqi police check points to ensure they are readily equipped and trained to counter insurgency efforts.

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Victory
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"Victory at all costs, victory inspite of terror, victory however long and hard the road may be." - Winston Churchill

Chaplain's Corner



Maj. Charles M. Herring
MNC-I Religious Support Coordinator

I can't remember who told me the story. I don't even know if it is true or not. What I do know is that it is typical of the character of many young Soldiers deployed to the Middle East on patrol every day. In the spirit of their courage and character I will tell the story to you.

A team of Soldiers were on patrol in the outskirts of Baghdad. They had told the first sergeant that they should be back at 1800 hours (that's 6:00 PM for you civilians). Rounding a tight corner through the narrow streets the last vehicle inadvertently knocked over a curbside stand which held a display of fresh figs. Figs flew everywhere. The last vehicle stopped immediately. When the others checked their rear view

How Do Others See You?

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Luke 6:31

mirrors they too stopped. Immediately Soldiers pulled security and the others went back to the broken stand careful not to damage any more figs. They were so glad they did. The 20 year old woman was totally blind!

She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled fruit as the crowd of Iraqis stepped aside, no one stopping and no one to care for her plight. The Soldiers not pulling security knelt on the curb and narrow street with her, gathering up the figs, putting them into her baskets and quickly repaired her small table stand. As the Soldiers did this they noticed that many of the figs were bruised; these they set aside in another small basket. When they had finished, they each pulled out a couple of dollars and said to the girl, "We don't know if you can understand us but please take this money for the damage we did. Are you okay?"

With a small sniffle and wiping her solid sightless clouded eyes with the back of her hand, she nodded her head. The Soldier then continued, "I hope we did not spoil your day too badly." As the Soldiers turned to return to their vehicles the bewildered blind woman called out to them, "GI." They paused and turned to look back into those

blind eyes. In hesitant English she continued, "...are you Jesus and the Disciples?" She was a minority Christian in Baghdad. She learned her English by listening to American music and American radio broadcasts over her father's short wave radio. Slowly the Soldiers made their way to their vehicles and returned to their base camp. Each one of them had that question bouncing about in their souls - "Are you Jesus and the Disciples?"

Every great religion has its heroes, models of kindness and love. In my faith Jesus is the Loving model of how to treat others. That is our destiny, is it not? To be so much like our faith heroes that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we, as Christians, claim to know Christ, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to chapel. It is actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day. You are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked you and me up on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit. Let us live like we are worth the price He paid.

No trooper is so tall that he can not stoop down and help those in need.

When can I wear my combat patch?

With all of the deployments within the past few years in our Army, many Soldiers are asking if and when they are authorized to wear a "combat patch", officially known as a shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service (SSI-FWTS). Soldiers who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) or Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) are authorized to wear the combat patch of the unit they deployed with. Specifically, Soldiers are authorized to wear a combat patch if they were deployed with units participating in Operation Enduring Freedom in the CENTCOM area of operations and were under the command of the CINC, CENTCOM anytime during the period from 19 September 2001 to a date to be determined. Also eligible are Soldiers assigned to units participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom deployed in the CENTCOM area of operations under the command of the CG, CENT-

COM anytime during the period from 19 March 2003 to a date to be determined.

There is no time-in-theater requirement to be authorized wear of the combat patch. Therefore, a Soldier that is deployed in support of OEF or OIF can wear the patch as soon as their boots hit the ground in the CENTCOM area of operations for a deployment.

Soldiers who were deployed in the area of operations on training exercises or in support of operations other than OEF or OIF are not authorized the combat patch, unless those exercises or operations became combat or support missions to OEF or OIF.

Soldiers authorized to wear more than one SSI-FWTS may choose which SSI-FWTS they wear. Soldiers also may elect not to wear the SSI-FWTS.

Signal brigade holds combat patch ceremony

Story and photo by Spc. William Howard
MNC-I, 22nd Signal Brigade

The 22nd Signal Brigade celebrated their wartime service with a ceremony at Camp Victory Saturday.

The Soldiers of Task Force Adler received their Shoulder Sleeve Insignia, combat patch, for Former Wartime Service during the ceremony.

Sgt. Maj. Thomas J. Clark, Task Force Adler command sergeant major, let his Soldiers know the significance of holding a ceremony such as this.

"We held the ceremony to honor the over 2,200 Soldiers and families that make up Task Force Adler. Few young Americans will ever have the courage to step into battle. We want to honor those that did," Clark said.

Task Force Adler units have held combat patch ceremonies at locations around Iraq. Clark said not every unit in the Army holds combat patch ceremonies, and his reason for holding one is simple.

"We are the keepers of tradition. If we don't continue tradition, tradition dies. Colonel Cross and I have made a commit-



Col. Fredrick A. Cross, Task Force Adler commander, presents the 22d Signal Brigade combat patch to Pfc. Kendra L. Justice during a ceremony at Camp Victory Saturday.

ment that tradition will not die on our watch," Clark said.

Clark, along with Task Force Adler commander, Col. Fredrick A. Cross, handed out combat patches to troops in back of the Task Force Adler's coalition network oper-

ations and security center.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Patrick Quenga, automations officer in charge, Task Force Adler, said that this is one of many combat patches in his 14-year Army career, but this one still holds special meaning. He has served his brigade and task force for over three years.

Quenga said that receiving the 22nd combat patch is the culmination of his years of service to the brigade.

In a speech during the ceremony, Cross said the patch is representative of far more than just another piece of cloth to place on the uniform.

We are vividly reminded that we are at war and that your efforts in establishing, maintaining, protecting and managing the largest communications network in the Army play a critical role in enabling the MNF-I and MNC-I commanders to exercise command and control over their forces," Cross said.

"You have been very successful and have made impressive gains thereby setting the condition which ensures mission success," Cross continued. "Just keep it up, stay focused and remain ever vigilant as we continue to support the transformation of this theater and prosecute our portion of this war."

"I ask you to go forth and improve upon that which you have already helped to establish. Find a way to make a difference!"



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kristopher Joseph

Saving lives: Spc. Steven Harris (left), a patient administration specialist, 883rd Medical Company, and Pfc. Scott Krumwiede (right), a MNC-I executive food service specialist, carry Staff Sgt. Michael Haskins, a wire systems installer for the Corps, up the stairs of the Al Faw Palace here Jan. 28 during a Combat Lifesavers certification course.

Operation hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.

Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.

Gospel Service Noon

Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.

Episcopal 4 p.m.

Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.

Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

Eastern Orthodox services:

Saturday:

Vespers 5 p.m.

Confession 5:30 p.m.

Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Camp Victory 3-Day Forecast

Thursday



Partly cloudy
High: 64 F
Low: 53 F

Friday



Rain
High: 61 F
Low: 49 F

Saturday



AM Showers
High: 62 F
Low: 44 F

GT Improvement Course

Is your GT score under 110 and holding you back?
Want to improve your GT score ASAP?

Where: Camp Victory Building 27B

When: Monday thru Friday

Start: Jan. 30 2006

Graduate: Feb. 17 2006

Test: Feb. 18 2006

POC: 822-4640

tracy.lippincott@iraq.centcom.mil

Your equipment
can't save your
life if it's not
turned on.



STAY ALIVE

0009

IEDs KILL

415th Tactical Exploitation Battalion
is hosting a Prayer Breakfast honoring...

AFRICAN AMERICAN BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2006



COALITION CAFÉ
TUESDAY
Feb. 7, 2006,
6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker:
Major Earl Bedford,
Chief, FOUOPS, MNC-IV Corps

Theme:

"Reaching Out to Youth:
A Strategy for Excellence"

For more information, contact

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If you have any questions, please contact 898th Medical
Detachment representative SFC Gentry at DSN (318) 822-2851
or email at gentry.christopher@iraq.centcom.mil

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We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.

Don't be the **OTHER** driver!!

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